

## ==== ACSA E-News ====



### **Promoting Effective Forest Management Act of 2022**

U.S. Senator John Barrasso (R-WY), Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and Chairman Joe Manchin (D-WV) introduced the Promoting Effective Forest Management Act of 2022.

This bipartisan legislation would reduce catastrophic wildfire risk and improve forest health.

"We are facing brutal wildfires across the West that threaten Wyoming's forests and communities," said Ranking Member Barrasso. "They are

destroying lives and livelihoods, wiping out wildlife and habitat, and reducing air quality. Our bipartisan bill will fight back against wildfire risk. It directs the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management to cut red tape and dramatically increase their wildfire mitigation projects. The bill will also take steps to help avoid critical staffing shortages in the wildland firefighting workforce. We must protect our forests and our communities from burning. I'm thankful to Chairman Manchin for working with me on this important legislation".

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## **Lumber Prices**

Lumber prices fell Wednesday as US mortgage rates hit the highest level in 14 years, pulling back from an earlier rally amid fears of a possible rail strike, according to Markets Insider.

According to the report, data from the Mortgage Bankers Association showed that the rate on a 30-year fixed mortgage jumped to 6.01% for the week ending September 9, up 7 basis points from a week ago. The latest rate is the highest for a fixed mortgage since 2008 when the US was contending with the Great Recession after the housing bubble popped.

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## **Farm Bill**

As lawmakers begin envisioning the next farm bill, some U.S. House Republicans are wary of making climate change a priority for farmers and ranchers.

The pushback from Republicans at a hearing this week came as the Biden administration has tried to make significant new investments in climate change mitigation on farmland, last week announcing 70 pilot projects to support climate-friendly food production.

Lawmakers must rewrite the sweeping farm bill every five years to set policy and funding for agriculture, conservation and nutrition programs. The next farm bill is due in 2023, and some environmental groups are eyeing it as a potential boon for fighting climate change.

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## Department of Energy and Carbon

The Department of Energy announced that \$4.9 billion from the bipartisan infrastructure law will support the development of technologies that slash planet-warming emissions from power generation and industrial operations.

The department is making the following three funding opportunity announcements:

- The Carbon Capture Demonstration Projects Program will provide up to \$2.54 billion to develop six integrated carbon capture, transport and storage projects that can be deployed at power plants or other industrial facilities, including cement, pulp and paper, iron, steel, and certain types of chemical plants.
- Carbon Dioxide Transport, Engineering, and Design will provide up to \$100 million to design regional carbon dioxide pipeline networks to safely transport captured CO<sub>2</sub>.
- Carbon Storage Validation, and Testing will provide up to \$2.25 billion to develop new and expanded large-scale, commercial carbon storage projects with the capacity to store at least 50 million metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>.

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### Did You Know??

**Wildfire Smoke:** Smoke from wildfires has worsened over the past decade, potentially reversing decades of improvements in Western air quality made under the Clean Air Act, according to research published Thursday from Stanford University.

The new analysis reveals a picture of daily exposure to wildfire smoke in better geographic detail than ever before. Researchers found a 27-fold increase over the past decade in the number of people experiencing an “extreme smoke day,” which is defined as air quality deemed unhealthy for all age groups.

In 2020 alone, nearly 25 million people across the contiguous United States were affected by dangerous smoke.

**Funding Congress:** Congress is poised to pass a stopgap funding bill next week, likely preventing a government shutdown even as a clash over a permitting reform bill bogs down negotiations.

It's unclear whether the funding bill will include the legislation from Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV) to speed up the permitting process for new energy projects. Republicans and Democrats have expressed misgivings about the measure, and time is running out to strike a compromise.

The Senate is expected to act first on the temporary funding fix. Senate Majority Leader Charles Schumer (D-NY) moved Thursday to advance the funding bill, teeing up a test vote Tuesday.

Schumer has remained determined to attach the permitting provisions to the funding bill, honoring a deal this summer that gained Manchin's vote for the Inflation Reduction Act.

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## **In Case You Missed This....**

### **Push For Permitting Reform To Significantly Speed-Up**

**Infrastructure Projects:** Wyoming's congressional delegation is throwing its weight behind a permitting reform bill that, if passed, will streamline environmental permitting reviews of infrastructure projects.

While Democrats still haven't announced their version of a permitting reform bill, Republicans have moved forward with their own, dubbed the Simplify Timelines and Assure Regulatory Transparency Act (START). U.S. Sens. John Barrasso and Cynthia Lummis, both R-WY, joined Sen. Shelley Moore Capito, (R-WV), in introducing the legislation which, if passed, would expedite permitting for everything from road and bridge projects to transmission lines for wind farms.

**Enviro Groups Make Push:** Advocates are pushing President Joe Biden to ramp up executive action on the environment, arguing the pace of rulemaking has so far been sluggish. Groups want the president to strengthen a number of oil and gas and vehicle emissions rules, quickly hire attorneys and other staff, and set up tax credits stemming from the Inflation Reduction Act.

"There is so much to do," said Margie Alt, executive director for the Climate Action Campaign, which is made up of a dozen environmental

and public health groups. "This is our moment to get the climate crisis under control."

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## Upcoming Events

**October 14-15**

Milwaukee Snow Show

WSSA Snowmobile Show & Swap Meet  
Puyallup Fairgrounds

Utah Snowmobile Show

**October 21-23**

MnUSA's Fall Workshop/Annual Meeting  
Holiday Inn Conference Center, Austin

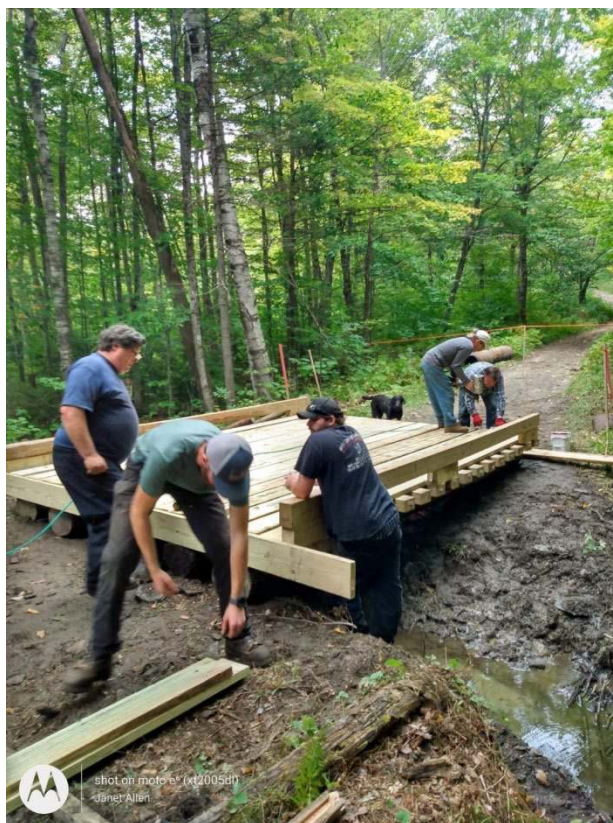
AWSC ANNUAL FALL WORKSHOP  
Central Wisconsin Convention Center, Rothschild

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Clubs across the snowbelt are meeting.....



And those clubs are getting the work done!  
Thanks to all of the volunteers!

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